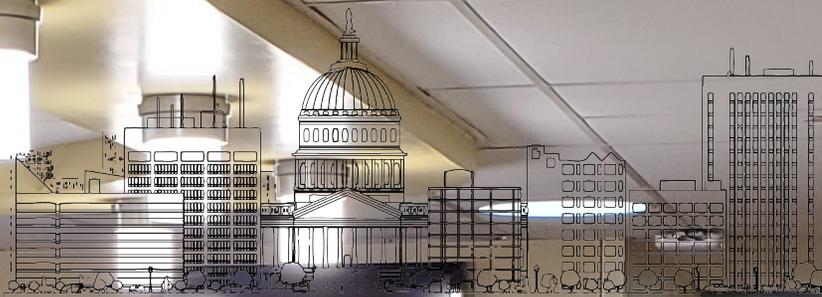


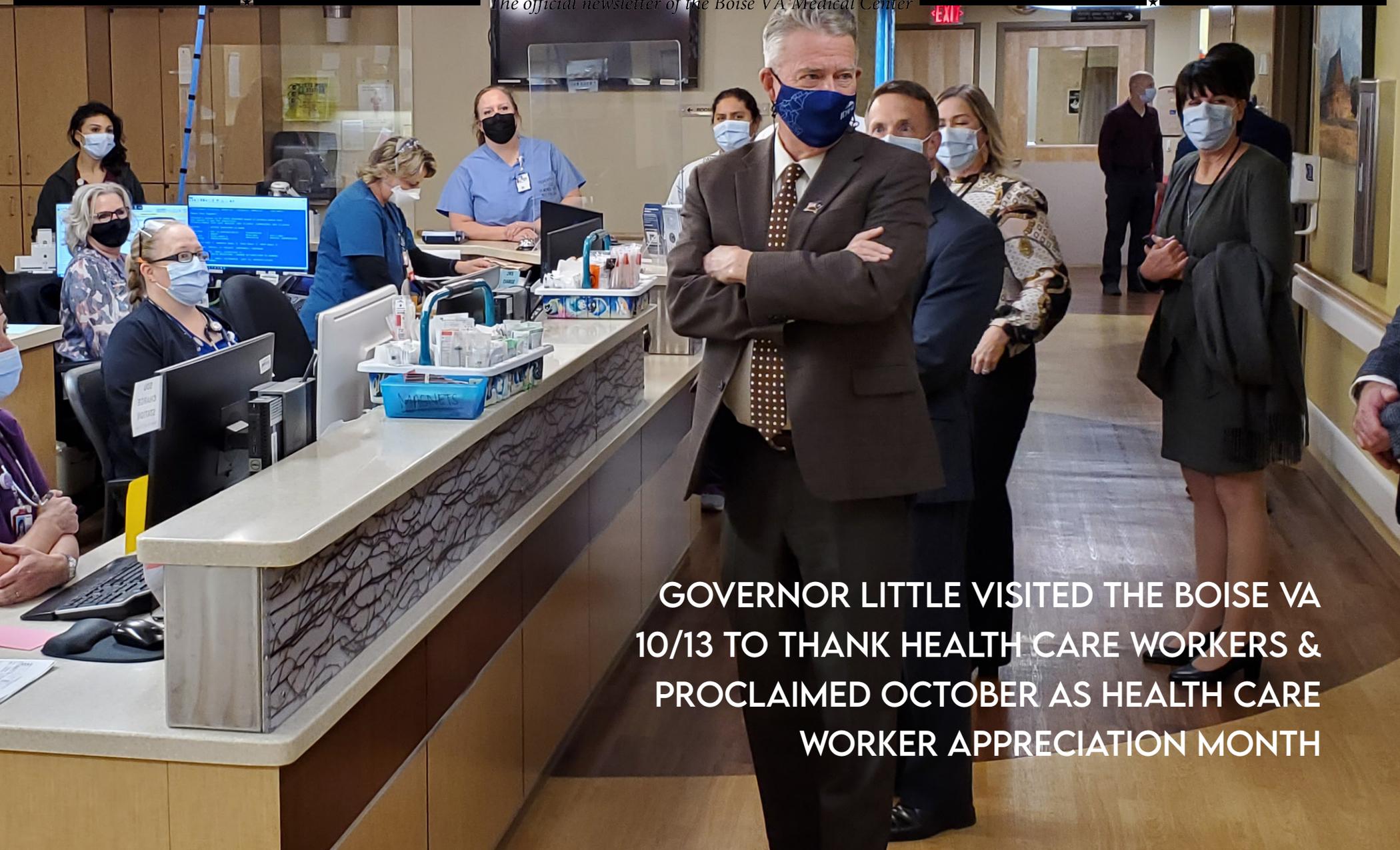
The  
**BOISE**



WARD 2M/S (Medical / Surgical)  
VISITORS: please check in with  
clock in Room 336 ↑

**FRONT**

*The official newsletter of the Boise VA Medical Center*



**GOVERNOR LITTLE VISITED THE BOISE VA  
10/13 TO THANK HEALTH CARE WORKERS &  
PROCLAIMED OCTOBER AS HEALTH CARE  
WORKER APPRECIATION MONTH**

L2R: Kacee Ramirez and Abi Mulvahill



# GOOD CATCH AWARD



## **Kacee Ramirez, Nicole Preston, Abby Mulvahill**

A patient was being sent home on Hospice. An order was written by a medical student/resident for 20 mg of oral liquid morphine prior to the patient's ride home in an ambulance. The dose of morphine was too high. The order was flagged by Pharmacy. The Resident

though he/she (the resident) had rewritten the order and fixed the dose. For some reason, the order was not fixed and the medication dose made it into the medication orders. An RN reviewed the medications, identified the dosing error, and called the MD to clarify. There were three RNs (Nicole, Kacee, and Abby) who noticed and questioned the dose. The MD changed the order to 5 mg and alerted the medical student/resident. No harm reached the patient.

# Women's Wellness Center



**BIG THANKS TO TINA NICHOLS FOR HER DONATION  
TO THE WOMENS CLINIC!**

L2R: Sharon Cardona, Wendy Decarvalho, Tina Nichols, Mickie Palmer

# CELEBRATE



RESPIRATORY  
THERAPISTS

RESILIENCE ♥ STRENGTH ♥ HOPE



# #RCWEEK21

## October 24-30, 2021

RC Week is our chance to celebrate the profession and let our community know how vital you are to patient health. Respiratory therapists have entered the spotlight for their efforts in saving lives during the COVID-19 pandemic. We could not have made it through without your lifesaving work and dedication to patient care.

# VETERANS DAY

*November 11, 2021*



Thank You  
Veterans!



**VA** | Boise VA  
Medical Center

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



[www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov)



# VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT



## *Leonard Elfering*



I first was in the US Navy spent 4 years all on the USS Constellation CVA 64 I served as ships company working as a Machinist Mate in the Evaporation unit. After that I went into the Navy Reserve for a very short time and then into the Idaho Army National Guard where I started as an M-Day soldier and went fulltime working as a trainer, recruiter and State transportation Sgt. I retired from the Army Guard with 27 years total service.

I was born and raised in Vale

Oregon graduated Vale Union High and then attended Treasure Valley Community College in Ontario Oregon until I went into the Navy. After coming home from the Navy I went into Law Enforcement working a total of almost 30 years as an officer, deputy, and Chief of Police in Idaho and Oregon. While doing that I got married, and we just had our 43-year wedding anniversary, a total of 5 children all grown and gone from home. My wife,

Lorraine, and I live outside of Parma on a small farm. We are both retired and volunteer a lot. We are volunteers with Southwest District Health and their Medical Reserve Corps along with other task with them.

I volunteer at the VA because I was a Sergeant and took taking care of my men to heart. This is taking care of soldiers and what we all need to do. That plus when I get old there had better be someone that is willing to do this

for me. "PAY IT FORWARD". I have been volunteering for 10 years, and serve primarily as a driver for Caldwell Veterans. What do you enjoy most about your time with the VA? It is all about the people. I like talking with them and in some small way making life better for them.



# BIG THANKS TO BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES PROGRAM FOR THE THANK YOU CARDS TO VA STAFF!

L2R: Dr. Lutana Haan, Assistant Dean of the College of Health Sciences; Jenni Forsyth, Diagnostic Radiology student; Jake Faulkner, VA Voluntary Services

# QUIT SMOKING THIS YEAR!

## GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

NOVEMBER 18

**Don't stop trying.**  
**Try stopping.**

Quitting smoking can be challenging. VA offers counseling and medication options that can help.



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

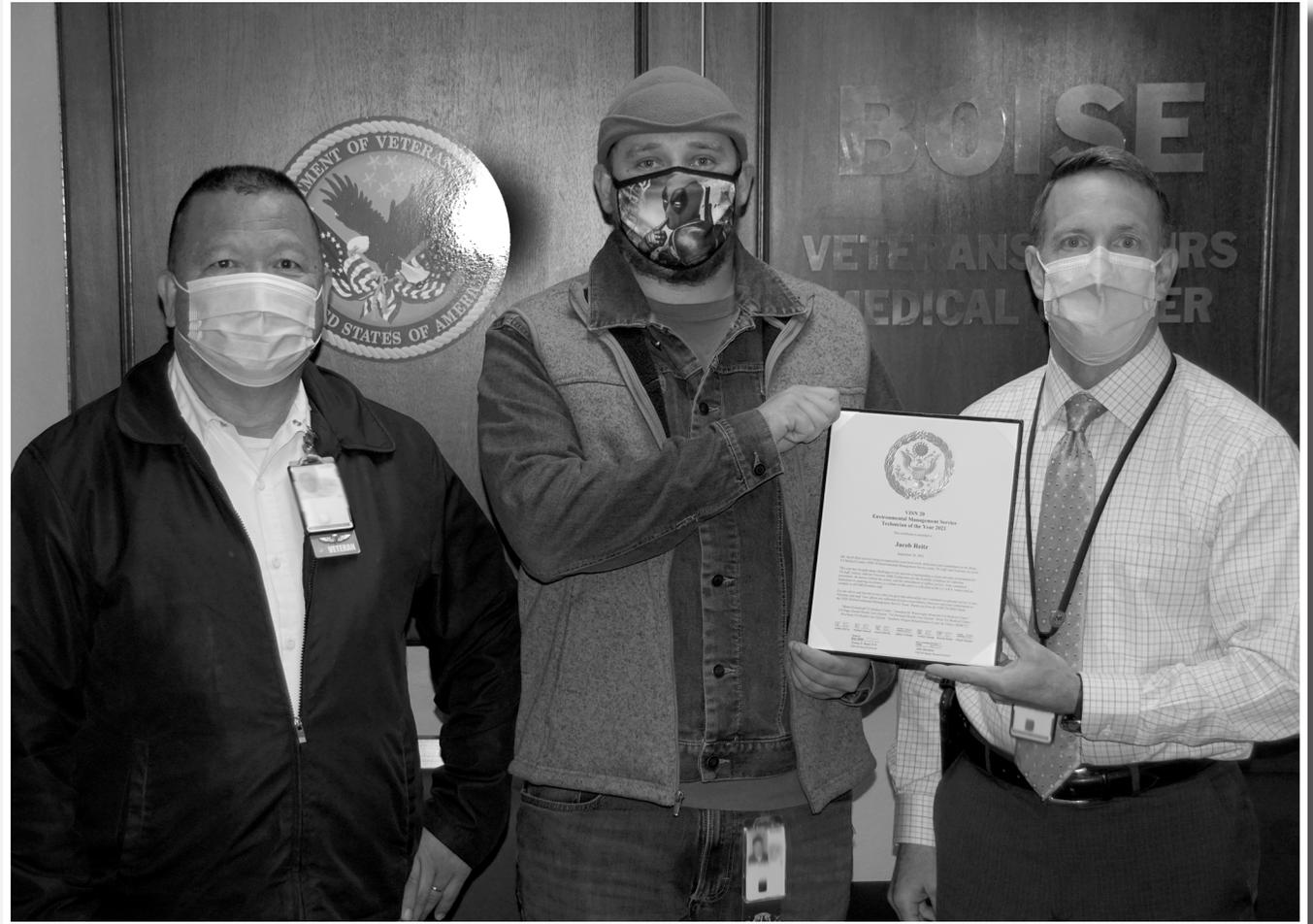
# CELEBRATE



OCTOBER IS  
NATIONAL  
**PHYSICAL  
THERAPY**  
MONTH

AMERICAN PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION  
[MoveForwardPT.com](http://MoveForwardPT.com)

L2R: Norbert Duenas, Jacob Reitz, and David Wood



**CONGRATULATIONS TO JACOB REITZ  
FOR BEING AWARDED THE VISN20 '2021  
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SERVICE  
TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR' AWARD**



## Compliance Corner

### Building a Culture of Integrity by Being Our Best

By: Debbie Reinhart, Integrity and Compliance Officer

National Compliance and Ethics Awareness Week is November 8-13. We have all heard the terms 'compliance' and 'ethics', but what do they mean and how do they work together to strengthen our organization? Compliance has a surprisingly simple definition. It means following rules. Ethics is a bit more complex. Ethics is doing the right thing regardless of what the law says. Is possible to be compliant but not ethical? Yes, it is, consider the following example.

In 1960 Dr. Frances Kelsey was just beginning her career at the FDA. One of her first assignments was to review a popular new drug that was being widely used throughout Europe the drug was known by several names, but history remembers it by the name Thalidomide. Given the popularity of the drug it seemed destined to sail through the FDA approval process, which at the time took just 60 days, but to Dr. Kelsey the evaluation was anything but routine. Dr. Kelsey was skeptical about claims of the drug's safety and she rejected the application six times citing a need for scientific proof of efficacy and safety as the reason. Instead of producing the requested evidence the drug manufacturer resorted to complaining to Dr. Kelsey's supervisors, calling her a 'petty bureaucrat', and maligning her work. Dr. Kelsey was under enormous pressure to approve the drug, and under the FDA approval standards at the time she would have been compliant if she had, but she did not relent.

It took a year for the full scope of the Thalidomide tragedy to begin to unfold in Europe as the drug was linked to deaths and birth defects in thousands of babies born to mothers who were prescribed the drug during pregnancy. By refusing to compromise her ethical standards for patient safety, Dr. Kelsey prevented what could have been the same tragic outcome for thousands of families in the United States. Dr. Kelsey helped to shape the FDA into what it is today. The Thalidomide case is often cited as the turning point in the FDA's evaluation of drugs and medical devices.

Dr. Kelsey is a great example of a person who did the right thing even when it was hard. Compliance is built on ethical principles, but we can't just be an organization comprised of people who are blindly following the letter of the law. We must constantly be judging and reflecting and making choices based on our ethical values and integrity.

The VA is committed to the highest standards of ethics and compliance. As the Boise VAMC Integrity and Compliance Officer I am grateful to each of you for your continued commitment to ensure we are individually and collectively demonstrating integrity at each corner of the facility. Please take a few minutes in the coming weeks to think about the [VA Code of Integrity](#) and the importance of compliance and ethics in everything we do here at the VA.

Employees and veterans are encouraged to speak up if something isn't right or if they need guidance about an ethical concern or question about compliance. You can contact me at 208-422-1267 / [Deborah.reinhart@va.gov](mailto:Deborah.reinhart@va.gov) or call the OIC Helpline at 866-842-4359. For guidance on ethical decisions related to patient care contact the Ethics Consultation Team at [BOIEthicsConsult@va.gov](mailto:BOIEthicsConsult@va.gov).

# COMPLIANCE CORNER





# LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you are,  
or know of  
a veteran  
who needs help this holiday  
season please stop by the  
Information Desk at the Boise  
VA Medical Center to fill out a  
request form.

Those veterans/families will be  
contacted to be connected with  
sponsors, donations and other  
forms of support during the  
holiday season.

*For more information contact the Boise VA  
Volunteer Services at (208) 422-1176*



**BIG THANKS TO THE EAGLE CHAPTER OF THE  
DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION FOR THEIR  
DONATION TO THE WOMENS CLINIC!**

L2R: Davy Sellman, Mary Garner and Barbara Grant